



Our Insect Enemies



The Sting Is The Thing When It Comes to Safety

(NAPSA)—“Bee careful.” Bees and wasps can cause a number of problems for home owners and pose a threat to safety. Their stings can be painful—even deadly to sensitive individuals.

Experts estimate that 50 to 100 people die annually in the United States as a direct result of bee and wasp stings.

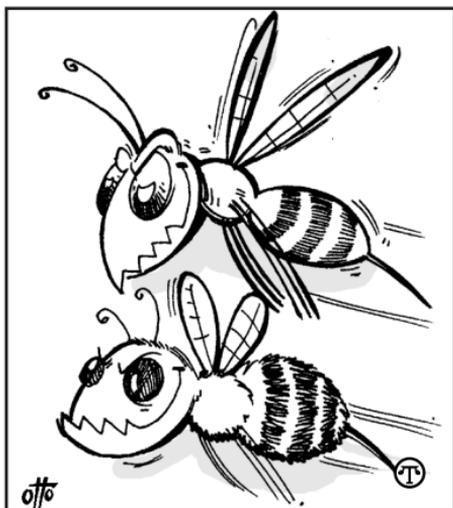
To defend your home and your family from stinging bees and wasps, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) recommends the following:

- Be aware of stinging insect nesting areas, and use extreme caution when around them. Bees and wasps can build their nests in attics, crawlspaces, building corners, soffits, under eaves and gutters, and even in some places you can't see, such as under patio furniture, decks, or even underground. A pest control professional can assist you with identifying all nesting areas, even hidden ones, and properly removing them.

- Bees and wasps can also build their nests inside structures. It is advisable to seal exterior cracks and crevices to prevent the insects from entering and building their nests.

- Don't try to remove a nest yourself. Bees and wasps sting not only to protect themselves, but to protect their entire colony, including family members. That's right—all of the wasps or bees in a colony are related. They have their family's best interest at heart, and that's not good for any homeowner.

- Stinging insects are also attracted to open garbage cans and exposed food. They are attracted to open soda cans, fruits, snacks, and other items. Cover all



Fragrances, such as those found in shampoos, hair sprays, perfumes, lotions, and other products can attract bees and wasps.

food when outdoors. Be sure to keep tight-fitting lids on garbage cans and empty them regularly.

- When spending time outdoors, avoid excessive use of fragrances, such as those found in shampoos, hair sprays, perfumes, colognes, lotions, and other products. It is wise to opt for fragrance-free varieties of these products since bees and wasps are attracted to these scents.

- If you have an allergic reaction to an insect sting, seek medical attention immediately. Insect stings injure or kill more people every year than all other venomous animals combined.

“All the more reason to make sure you contact a pest control professional when you're trying to rid your house and property of bee and wasp nests and activity,” says NPMA public affairs director Cindy Mannes.

For more information on stinging insects and how to avoid them, visit www.pestworld.org.